The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 7. NO. 28 — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1917. — WHOLE NO. 340.

ANTI-UNION EMPLOYERS BLAMED FOR I. W. W.

Washington, Oct. 6.—In discussing the recent deportation of Arizona workers in the American Federationist President Gompers gives this logical answer to the question, "Why the I. W. W.?"

"The responsibility for the existence of the I. W. W. movement lies with those employers who have rejected and ruthlessly opposed collective bargaining and who have denied their employes the right to further their interests in a normal, constructive manner.

"It is impossible to kill in human beings the desire and the ambition to aspire to something better. Indeed, it would be deplorable if that desire could be killed. When employers seek to prevent a natural outlet for this desire they provoke violence and disruption. The I. W. W. movement is a creation of economic despots and financial anarchists who oppose constructive organization of economic relations. After the copper kings of the southwest have created and fostered the I. W. W. movement they now seek to use it as a cloak to disguise its attack upon the trade union movement.

"Approximately 12,000 miners are on strike in Arizona. The copper operators are making enormous profits on war contracts. To entrench their power they began a campaign of victimizing active union men, thus disrupting the labor movement. Economic action was necessary to maintain their rights. The men presented demands which included the right to organize and to obtain higher wages.

"The copper companies arbitrarily refused even to consider the demands of the men and at once prepared for the contest. The strikers were not permitted to exercise their normal, lawful rights—to do peaceful strike duty as pickets—and were arrested on all manner of pretext."

STEEL WORKERS DEPORTED.

Waynesburg, Pa., Oct. 6.—At the instance of mill manufacturers Waynesburg officials staged an Arizona "law and order" stunt when they deported two representatives of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, who were attempting to organize mill men. They were charged with being "suspicious characters," and the next morning were denied a trial and told to get out of town inside of 10 minutes. The same treatment was recently accorded Vice President Larkin at McKeesport and Organizer McCune at Woodlawn.

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 6. — The official journal of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers has this to say of the deportation of its representatives by petty Pennsylvania officials:

"The daily press teems with tirades against the lawlessness of the I. W. W., but not a word do they put forth against the lawlessness of corporations and their municipal tools in the shape of lawless burgesses and police.

"Wrong is wrong, and crime is crime, whether committed by those in authority or those without it. Whenever corporations influence sheriffs, mayors and burgesses and police to arrest and incarcerate respectable citizens who have violated no law of the land and put them in jail simply because they are organizers of labor, they violate the fundamental principle of the American nation, for organized workers will not forever tolerate such high-handed proceedings as are being practiced by criminal corporations, as well as criminal state, county and municipal officials."

STEEL STRIKERS FIRM.

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 6.—About 5,000 employes of the Jones & Laughlin steel plants are standing firm for the eight-hour day and a 25 per cent wage increase. Several representatives of the American Federation of Labor are assisting these workers who are being rapidly organized.

A large per centage of the Jones & Laughlin contracts are for government work, but this concern is blind to the federal eight-hour law, which their workers are striking to enforce.

When the strike was called the United States steel corporation (the trust) hurriedly announced a 10 per cent wage increase and many independent concerns are taking similar action in the hope that their employes will not become inoculated with the shorter work day germ.

START LABOR AGENCY.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Oct. 6.—A labor employment service department has been started by the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union. It will be conducted without cost to employer and employed, and is intended, according to the announcement, "to make the industry more prosperous."

"Through this agency," it is stated, "we shall strive to keep our members busy, assist them in securing desirable positions and supply competent workmen to the employer no matter where his business is located."

HUGE SUMS NEEDED.

Atlantic City, N. J., Oct. 6.—At the convention of the American Bankers' association it was stated that savings in this country must be tripled to provide funds for the successful prosecution of the war. Speakers declared that the first year would cost $18,000,000,000, while the savings in peace times were about $5,000,000,000 a year. There was a plain statement of the fact that the American people must retrench for their government as an absolute necessity to win the war.

LOOKED AT MILL; FINED.

South Bend, Wash., Oct. 6.—Striking timber workers have been fined $25 each for violating an anti-picketing injunction, although it was proven that the unionists' "crime" consisted of only looking at a struck mill. The employers' case was handled by the Employers' Association of Washington, which is aiding the mill owners to combat the eight-hour demand of their employes.

PLASTERERS RAISE WAGES.

Philadelphia, Oct. 6.—Plasterers' union No. 592 has secured voluntary wage increases from 65 to 70 cents an hour. This union has jurisdiction over cement finishers, composition floor layers and asphalt workers.

FREIGHT HANDLERS AT WORK.

New Orleans, Oct. 6.—The 500 striking union freight handlers have returned to work. The question of wages and other conditions will be arbitrated.

BARBERS MAKE GAINS.

Seattle, Oct. 6.—The Barbers' union has secured better working conditions through conferences with employers.

FAMILIES LACK FUNDS IN NATION'S CAPITAL

Washington, Oct. 6.—The bureau of labor statistics, federal department of labor, brands living conditions of many Washington families as "a shocking example of economic indecency."

The bureau has concluded an investigation of the cost of living in this city and finds that nearly one-third of the families of workers, both white and colored, finished the year 1916 in debt.

Schedules were obtained from 1,481 white families and from 629 colored families, making a total of 2,110 families.

"The number of families scheduled was large enough to permit trustworthy averages and deductions," says the report. "Only in the lowest and highest income groups are the numbers so small as to make generalizations doubtful."

"It is startling to learn," says the report, "that in the capital of the nation, in a year of unprecedented high prices, 807, or 38 per cent of 2,110 families taken at random had yearly incomes of less than $900, and 1,295 families, or 61 per cent, had incomes of less than $1,200 a year. As noted above, some of these families were of small size, but the averages were not abnormally low. Thus, for families receiving less than $900 per year the family household averaged 4.4 members and the net family averaged 3.4 members; for families receiving less than $1,200 the corresponding averages were 4.6 and 3.5."

The summary showing that nearly one-third of the families investigated finished 1916 with deficits "reveals a shocking state of economic indecency," it is stated.

"The negroes fared worse than the whites," continues the report. "Out of 629 negro families 180, or nearly 29 per cent, were obliged to try to keep body and soul together on less than $600 a year, and 472, or 75 per cent, three-quarters of the total, lived on less than $900. Among the white families conditions were better, but not vastly so. Out of 1,481 such families there were 65 who had less than $600 to keep them through the year, while no less than 335, or nearly 23 per cent, existed on less than $900, and 710 or almost one-half, had less than $1,200 a year."

Only those families were scheduled whose principal breadwinner worked for wages and earned not more than $1,800 a year unless engaged in some mechanical trade like that of railroad engineer.

To get the incomes and expenditures of families special agents were sent out to interview housewives in their homes. To insure a fair representation of the working population of Washington, including government clerks, the city was divided into districts and a fair proportion of schedules were obtained from each district.

MAY HALT PUBLIC WORKS.

Atlantic City, N. J., Oct. 6.—In an address before the American Bankers' association Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo called upon all state and municipal authorities to discontinue all unnecessary public works and improvements until the end of the war, to the end that the federal government might occupy exclusively, if need be, the entire investment field of the United States.

"Private enterprise," he said, "should be governed by the same principle. I do not mean to have you infer that this is a definite suggestion that an immediate attempt be made upon any organized scale to discourage unnecessary capital expenditures; but I do wish to urge that you, the bankers of America, make a deep study of this question so that if the time comes when it is desirable to take action, you will be prepared to co-operate quickly with the government.

"In the absence of state action it is possible, however, for the bankers of the country to discourage, to a very great extent, unnecessary or unwise investment of capital in private and public enterprises during the period of this war."

WOMAN'S SCOPE ENLARGED.

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 6.—The state industrial board has ruled that women may be employed in certain branches of the manufacture of explosives hitherto exclusively handled by men. Provision is made for dust elimination where these women are employed. Health regulations are also provided and the women will not be permitted to do heavy lifting.

The board declared for equal pay for equal work where women are employed on war material.

Syracuse, N. Y., Oct. 6.—If a woman is strong enough to handle a pick and shovel she can find employment on the Rutland railroad system, which announces that hereafter vacancies will be filled by the gentler sex if they can qualify.

FORCED TO ACCEPT AWARD.

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, Oct. 6.—Striking telegraphers employed by the Great Northwestern Telegraph company have forced this concern to accept an arbitration award rendered under the Canadian industrial disputes investigation act.

Both sides accepted the arbitration provisions of the law, but when the award went against the company it pleaded that the board's findings were excessive. A short strike brought the management to terms.

STRIKEBREAKERS KILL.

San Francisco, Oct. 6.—Four strikebreakers employed by the United Railroads have been arrested on murder charges in connection with the death of a Chicago strikebreaker known as the "gorilla of State street," who was shot in the forehead and instantly killed. The shot was fired from a group of strikebreakers and is the result of a feud between Chicago and New York "free and independents."

GRADE CROSSINGS DEADLY.

Santa Rosa, Cal., Oct. 6.—Max Thelen, president of the state railroad commission, in a speech in this city, said that 490 people have been killed and 1,400 injured in grade-crossing accidents during the last four years. In July of this year alone 13 died and 22 were injured in these man-traps.

PAINTERS ORGANIZE.

Macon, Ga., Oct. 6.—Painters in this city have organized and affiliated with the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators.

SECURE UNION SHOP.

Cincinnati, Oct. 6.—Local theatrical managers have signed a union shop agreement with Musicians' union No. 1.

SHIPPING "WAR HOGS" FINALLY ROUNDED UP

Washington, Oct. 6.—Shipping interests that opposed the seamen's bill, and have since attempted to secure its repeal, are now confronted with other troubles, since the federal shipping board has reduced shipping rates and will direct the operation of all vessels over 2,500 tons.

"One of the largest ship companies," says the Washington Post, "promptly begins to snivel and complain that the rates are unsatisfactory.

"Nothing connected with the war has revealed a more detestable, hoggish spirit than that exhibited by ship owners, with a few honorable exceptions. There has been no pretense of playing fairly with the United States or any of its allies. The sole object has been to coin money out of war necessities, to wring from all governments and individuals extortionate profit for unsatisfactory service.

"Coupled with this unconscionable profiteering has been a stubborn refusal to protect ships again submarine attack. The government having unwisely guaranteed owners against loss through the war risk insurance bureau, the owners have promptly sent ships and cargoes to destruction and collected from the government.

"As a consequence of this combination of selfishness and stupidity, the German submarines are steadily gaining upon transatlantic shipping.

"New construction is not enough to keep even with destruction. The ships now afloat must be saved. It is a crime, second only to the crime committed by submarines themselves to permit ships to be sunk when they can be saved.

"As for ship owners receiving special consideration from the government, they are lucky to escape without punishment. Their course has been roundly condemned by President Wilson as hampering the war operations of the government. It is none too soon that the government has arranged to take control of the ships that private owners have not patriotism enough to keep afloat."

RIGHT WAY AND WRONG WAY.

San Francisco, Oct. 6.—Under the above caption, Editor Barry of the Star says:

"Contrast the methods of the United Railroads (local street car system) and those of the Southern Pacific and the San Francisco and Oakland Terminal railway. While the former is fighting the just demand of its underpaid platform men after the methods in vogue years ago, the others have recently agreed on plans of arbitration by means of which a settlement will be quietly made after full discussion and consideration of the needs of the men and the financial ability of the companies. Meantime San Francisco is suffering from turmoil, near-riots and uncertainty, the United Railroads is plunging deeper and deeper into bankruptcy, lives of employes and passengers are imperiled, confusion and bitterness are everywhere. On the contrary, work has not been suspended for a moment on the other lines, the public does not realize that there is any dispute, everybody is cheerful, fares continue to be rung up with pleasant regularity, and the auditors still make out their complicated statements of losses and gains. With this illustration of different methods and their results is it any longer a question as to who is to blame for the disgraceful and distressing state of affairs that exists in this city?

"But let it not be forgotten that arbitration and peace are possible only when the workers are united in a representative labor organization."

FAVOR STRAIGHT SCALE.

Indianapolis, Oct. 6.—The executive council of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders has notified affiliates that it is a waste of time to submit sliding scales for its approval. These unions are instructed to stand for flat wage scales.

Danville, Ill., Oct. 6.—Bookbinders' union No. 132 has established its first wage scale—and incidentally raised wages $2 a week.

Fort Wayne, Ind., Oct. 6.—A three-year wage agreement has been secured by Bookbinders' union No. 192. Rates this year will be $22 a week; for 1918, $23, and for 1919, $24.

St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 6.—Organized bookbinders have secured a one-year agreement which calls for higher wages and improved working conditions.

STRIKE ON PUBLIC UTILITY.

Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, Oct. 6.—Girls employed by the public owned telephone system of this province have been forced to strike against low wages. In a report to the trades and labor council it was stated that "these girls have tried to assure themselves of conditions under which they will be fairly sure of living conditions, and for this the local superintendent has been preparing to eliminate them from the service. They have been spied upon in the office, they have been spied upon in the streets, and some have been followed even to their homes in the search for an excuse to blacklist them, and three have recently been discharged on trumped-up excuses."

CAR MEN RAISE WAGES.

Knoxville, Tenn., Oct. 6.—The Knoxville Railway and Light company has signed a two-year agreement with the Street Car Men's union. All employes at the car barns and on the cars are increased 4 cents an hour minimum and 2 cents an hour maximum. Extra men will be paid $1.50 a day, even if they are not sent out on a run or if they only work a few hours; the merit system is abolished and arbitration provisions are agreed to.

WANT MORE; LOCKED OUT.

Jacksonville, Fla., Oct. 6.—When the Florida Cigarmaking company discovered its employes were arranging for an increased wage demand, these employes were locked out. This concern pays from $2 to $7 a thousand less than its competitors.

OIL WORKERS UNITE.

Guffey, Tex., Oct. 6.—Oil workers in this vicinity—the oldest oil field in the state—have perfected a trade union and have voted to join the state federation of labor.

PRESSMEN RAISE WAGES.

Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 6.—The Printing Pressmen's union has signed a three-year agreement with employers. Wages are increased for journeymen [illegible] and apprentices.

DEMAND MAYOR ROLPH BARE BOMB FRAME-UP

San Francisco, Oct. 6.—The local labor council, through a special committee, has made a formal request in writing to Mayor Rolph that he investigate the part the police department has played in the Mooney case and what assistance it has given District Attorney Fickert and Oxman. The latter is charged with attempted perjury, and has been rearrested following acquittal last week.

"It was the activity of your police department," the unionists say, "which made possible the success of the Oxman perjury plot.

"Oxman and Lieut. Stephen Bunner, in whose presence the Rigall perjury story was rehearsed, have been and still are protected by Capt. Duncan Matheson. Your policemen and your detectives recruited and marshaled the band of perjurers who appeared in three cases already tried.

"Two months ago you told Capt. Matheson to investigate the connection of the police department with this crime. Capt. Matheson did not obey your orders, and now that Oxman has come to trial he is working with Fickert, Cunha and Oxman in the joint defense of the three. Ready and available before him was the record of the 19 jurors left over from the old panel, and from whom nearly the entire Oxman jury was impaneled."

UNION PAINTERS INCREASE.

Lafayette, Ind., Oct. 6.—The Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators has increased a membership of 85,221 on August 1, last year, to 93,320 on August 1, this year.

"In view of the depression in the building industry," says J. C. Skemp, editor of the Painter and Decorator, "the steady increase in the membership of the brotherhood is surprising. In the larger cities there have been a reduction of 50 per cent in the amount of building this year, as compared with last. As little painting has been done upon government work so far, the growth has been in the face of adverse conditions. With the increased activity in the building industry that is sure to come with the fall season and the new opportunities for employment that will be furnished, now that the ship building program is in full swing, we can reasonably look forward to a further increase in the membership during the remaining months of the year."

MORE MINERS FREED.

Denver, Oct. 6.—Attorney General Hubbard has filed a confession of error in the state supreme court in the cases of Ben Richardson and David Robb, Fremont county miners, sentenced two years ago to three and five years in the penitentiary on murder charges growing out of the miners' strike in southern Colorado. The attorney general says there is no evidence to show that the accused fired the fatal shot, and asks that the decision be reversed. The presiding judge is denounced by the attorney general for "the utter impropriety and prejudicial character of his conduct and language."

IOWA LABOR NOT SCARCE.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Oct. 6.—Says Editor Stewart of the Cedar Rapids Tribune:

"Detailed reports from various cities in Iowa received at headquarters of the Iowa federation of labor in this city upon the blanks just mailed to the secretaries of the central bodies show that union labor is prosperous and busy, but there is no demand in any of the cities making reports for outside help at this time."

A CONVENTION SIDE LIGHT.

Detroit, Oct. 6. — In reporting the proceedings of the recent convention of the Michigan state federation of labor, the Detroit Labor News says:

"Fred Pagelson, Grand Haven's holiday orator, read an essay in which anyone who dared strike during the war was called a reptile, and acquainted the delegates with some of the wonders of zoology."

SAILING VESSELS BARRED.

Washington, Oct. 6.—The government has given notice that it will not issue licenses to sailing vessels going through the war zone. It is stated that steamers can navigate the war zone with less danger than sailing craft, which will be used in safer waters.

CITIZENSHIP DENIED STRIKING FOREIGNER

Seattle, Oct. 6. — Judge John S. Jurey has denied citizenship papers to Conrad Strom, a Swede, who is one of several thousand ship carpenters who have suspended work to assist timber workers in securing the eight-hour day. The court said that a man so devoid of patriotism as to strike at this time is not deserving of citizenship. The lumber barons have refused the eight-hour day despite requests of the state and federal governments and the state council of defense.

In a public statement issued by interested unionists, Judge Jurey's ruling is objected to and his uncalled for comment is declared an insult to the organized workers.

"Not only have the lumber interests refused to heed the pleas of the government in the present crisis," it is stated, "but they have taken advantage of the extremity of both the government and the private interests to more than double the price of the material so essential in the construction of ships and buildings.

"Not only has the lumber trust failed to fill the orders placed with it, but nearly as many men are now idle from this cause as from the strike itself. Work for the government is hampered even now in the Bremerton navy yard, is threatened with entire suspension on the government railroad in Alaska, and in local yards all are handicapped by lack of building material, not to speak of the blow that has been dealt to local building construction in the city itself.

"Judge Jurey fails to see the high motive that actuated the strike. What had the striker to win by the successful outcome of the strike? Nothing except that other workers whom he never knew might have justice. It is the application of the broadest spirit of brotherhood. Men of this type are the sort of men that America ought to welcome to citizenship with open arms.

"In conclusion, we ask the public to realize the strong provocation that caused the strike to take the stand they have; we ask our fair employers to be careful of the baneful influence of the lumber trust in opposing all advanced conditions for labor, and we urge on those who are in sympathy with the employers' side [illegible]."

FIGHTING UNIONISM BELONGS TO PAST AGE

Fort Smith, Ark., Oct. 6.—"The time to fight labor unions has passed," is the advice the Times Record gives to employers in this city.

"There was a time," continues this paper, "when it might have been profitable, from an employment stand, to do so, but not now. The commercial world has accepted unionism and there is no use kicking against a stone wall. There is just one thing to do and that is to adjust to the new conditions. He is a wise business man who shapes his business to the new inventions and improvements in business.

"An employer who fights organizing is fighting against his time, against the trend of events. Unions sometimes do wrong things but unions are right because collective bargaining is right. But the point we desire to emphasize is that they have come to stay and must be used as a part of our commercial life. There is no use in taking any other stand. In individual cases this paper has no concern but it does desire to impress upon the employer the advantages of making the union a part of his business and having it work for development of the business."

PROGRESS BY FUR WORKERS.

Minneapolis, Oct. 6.—Fur Workers' union No. 60 has secured the union shop, the 50-hour week, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays. Manufacturers granted these demands after fur workers thoroughly organized.

Washington, Oct. 6.—The recently-organized union of fur workers has succeeded in establishing the union shop, a 48-hour week, equal distribution of work and extra time for overtime and holidays.

Chicago, Oct. 6.—The Fur Manufacturers' association and independent shops in this city have signed a union shop agreement with Fur Workers' union No. 45 after a week's strike. Wages are increased 10 per cent and the 48-hour week is conceded.

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 6.—Fur workers in this city are organizing under direction of the International Fur Workers' union.

STRIKEBREAKERS ESCAPE.

Springfield, Ill., Oct. 6—A grand jury has failed to indict a singe strikebreaker as the result of the killing of a policeman and other violations of law that culminated in an attempt to stop workers from parading on behalf of striking street car men, and which resulted in a general strike.

Trade unionists inform the grand jury that the policeman was killed by a strikebreaker who used a revolver purchased by a representative of the street car company. It is stated that 23 of these revolvers were bought at one store and that when strikebreakers were arrested some of the revolvers were found on their persons.

The state's attorney says he will prosecute all law-breakers, despite the grand jury's attempt to whitewash.

MACHINISTS REDUCE HOURS.

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 6.—Machinists employed by the John Ramming Machine Shop company have secured an eight-hour day and a 5-cent minimum wage. Rummell-Dowley company has accepted the eight-hour day and will pay 50 cents an hour for inside workers and 62½ cents and a 54-hour week for outside workers. The Illinois Glass company has raised wages 20 per cent and established the 48-hour week.

EXEMPTION NOT AFFECTED.

San Francisco, Oct. 6.—During the recent strike of ship yard workers, employers attempted to intimidate these unionists by threatening to withdraw exemption affidavits filed by them, if the men did not return to work. The federal exemption board stopped this movement by its ruling that the strike would not affect industrial exemptions.

MAYOR STOPS PICKETING.

Portland, Ore., Oct. 6.—When Mayor Baker discovered that striking metal workers were successfully picketing the Northwest steel plant, he ordered the chief of police to stop this practice. About 20 unionists were arrested.

LIBERALISM NOT DEAD SAYS ENGLISH WRITER

New York, Oct. 6.—The Joseph Fels international commission publishes an article on "British liberal," and the war by Prof. Gilbert Murray, distinguished Oxford writer and scholar, which was first printed in the London Daily News. Prof. Murray says:

"Liberalism has not been destroyed by the war. It has been fortified. In spite of our many set-backs, in spite of our present sense of exile and discouragement, our horizon has been widened, our experience deepened, our opinions have grown into a faith. It is a faith for which we have shed blood and endured suffering, and it would be strange if we betrayed it.

"When we entered the war we took upon us a heavy sacrifice for the sake of some principle or set of principles, which at the time we realized very imperfectly. In such moments the average man does not exactly analyze his feelings, or succeed in weighing truly all the points at issue. He is faced by something—a prospect, a threat, an evil thing coming towards him; and instinctively he says: 'No not that; I would rather die!' That is the spirit in which we English liberals entered the war. We were faced by something which we would never, while we lived, accept; we possessed something which we would never, while we lived, consent to lose.

"Militarism is the enemy. We English before the war were the least military of the powers of Europe, the least military power in the world, except America. But we had our black spots. Some at least of us had our illicit ambitions. A British government not long ago suppressed by war the independence of two brave little republics who might surely have been handled in wiser ways. We liberals hated militarism then and always. But we could not hate it then as we hate it now, because at that time we did not fully know it, and now we do. By militarism I mean the government of a state in time of peace by its war lords, the concentration of its national effort on war efficiency, and the regarding of war not as a desperate last resort, when all else fails, but as a normal and legitimate instrument of policy. That spirit, that policy, is the central part of all evils against which we fight.

"This, then, is our first rough answer to one who asks what we liberals have come to, where our liberalism has vanished."

BACK-TO-LAND SCHEME APPLIED IN FAR WEST

San Francisco, Oct. 6.—With a legislative appropriation of $260,000 the state land settlement board announces that it is ready to purchase from 4,000 to 6,000 acres of farm land, which will be improved, subdivided and settled. This land will be sold on small down payments and long time notes taken for the remainder at 5 per cent interest.

"Under this plan," says Editor Scharrenberg, of the Coast Seamen's Journal, "a young man with but little capital can nevertheless make a start in life as an independent farmer cultivating a farm he himself owns, with anywhere from 20 to 36 years to pay for his land.

"Before the land is selected Dean Thomas F. Hunt of the University of California college of agriculture will report on the suitability of the tracts submitted for closer settlement, and the president of the state water commission will report on the water rights pertaining to the lands offered or to be purchased with them.

"This great new undertaking in California is the first time in America that such a land settlement policy has been introduced. Already it has made a memorable success in Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Ireland and a score of other countries.

"Today more than a third of the farms in the United States are cultivated by tenants, and only two-thirds by those who themselves own the land. This deplorable tendency toward a system of tenant farmers is rapidly growing worse. To rescue for America the opportunity for young farmers to be independent land owners, instead of tenants, is the great work which the new system will achieve. Its inauguration in California, for the first time in the United States, has already won for the state praise from economists and experts in social problems in all parts of the United States."

SCENT BLACKLIST.

Long Island City, N. Y., Oct. 6.—The Fur Worker, official paper of the International Fur Workers' union, warns these workers against the "reference card" system employers are seeking to introduce. Under this plan every worker's history, character, skill, etc., would be registered. The employers contend that this is a harmless innovation and is intended only to protect them against workers who leave their employment in the middle of the week.

The Fur Worker says that a better way would be for the union to use its moral influence in these cases. "We believe the reference card will prove dangerous to the workers," says the Fur Worker. "The words 'reference card' may sound innocent, but we regard any such proposition with suspicion, as we know from experience what use manufacturers are apt to make of such a scheme. We suspect that at some future time the reference card will develop into a blacklist. Employers will use it as a means of discriminating against active union men. They have no difficulty in finding some paltry excuse for such action."

SOLDIERS' BOARD $800,000.

Philadelphia, Oct. 6.—"War has made Uncle Sam the biggest buyer of food in this country and the board bill for his soldiers will be $800,000 a day," said Charles L. Pack, president of the national emergency food garden commission. "We are to have 2,000,000 men under arms shortly, according to the best reports. At 40 cents a day it will be seen what that means. True, these men ate before becoming soldiers, and they doubtless ate more than 40 cents worth daily, which Uncle Sam figures is the cost per man. But you must remember that these men have suddenly become non-producers and they must be fed.

"I am told that the reserve stock of foodstuffs at each camp is $125,000, and there are 32 camps in the country today. That means that food valued at $4,125,000 is taken out of the regular channels of trade."

BEST DIVIDEND GETTER.

Minneapolis, Oct. 6.—"If any one is in doubt as to whether or not organization pays refer them to the members of the Flour and Cereal Workers' union," says the Minneapolis Labor Review.

"This union has been conducting an active organizing campaign for just one month with the result that when the big milling companies paid off a week ago every worker in the mills received an increase of 25 cents a day.

"There is not a member of the union who has invested more than $1.50 in the organization, yet the dividends for the last month alone in the form of increased wages amounted to about $7.50."

MUST SERVE TO END OF WAR.

Washington, Oct. 6.—The judge advocate general of the army has ruled that no enlistments in the regular army or national guard can expire during the war, no matter when the enlistment contract was entered into. It is pointed out that recent acts specifically provide that all enlistments in the army shall continue during the existence of a war emergency unless sooner discharged.

STEEL STRIKE ENDS.

Beaver Falls, Pa., Oct. 6.—The strike at the Moltrup Steel Products company's plant has ended by the reinstatement of a worker who was discharged. Wage increases and shorter hours will be settled within 30 days. The strikers are members of the Cold Drawn Steel Workers' union, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

WOMEN WORK LONG HOURS.

Topeka, Kan., Oct. 6.—A local newspaper says that women coach cleaners employed by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad "like their work very much and they intend to stay on the job." They work nine hours a day, seven days a week.

BRICKLAYERS ORGANIZE.

Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 6.—Officers of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International union report the recent formation of locals at Havre, Mont.; Lewiston, Pa., and San Angelo and Lubbock, Texas.

PLUMBERS WANT MORE.

Port Arthur, Tex., Oct. 6.—Organized plumbers in this city and in Beaumont have suspended work to enforce a wage increase from $6 to $7 a day.

WANT 10-HOUR DAY.

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 6.—Organized cooks and waiters have asked for a 10-hour day and a six-day week.

COERCION A FAILURE; MEDIATION SUCCEEDS

Washington, Oct. 6.—Penalties for violation of the Canadian "can't-strike" law, officially known as the industrial disputes investigation act, have failed to check strikes and whatever success the law may have is because of its conciliation features.

The above is a summary of this legislation by Benjamin M. Squires, published in the September issue of the Monthly Bulletin, issued by the federal bureau of labor statistics, department of labor.

From March 22, 1907, to December 31, 1916, there have been 204 strikes in violation of this law, affecting 88,278 employes whose time loss was 2,015,844 days.

"Of this number," it is stated, "two disputes, affecting 95 employes, whose time loss was 290 days, may be considered lockouts. Assuming the minimum penalty of $10 per day per striking employe, it will be seen that more than $35,000,000 in uncollected fines have accumulated during the period stated. If the maximum penalty is assumed, the amount exceeds $150,000,000.

"In the face of this record of prosecutions and violations during a period of nearly ten years it does not seem probable that a wholesome respect has been fostered for such provisions, nor that a fear of the imposition of penalties serves in any considerable degree as a restraining influence. On the contrary, there is a strong indication that whatever success has attended the administration of the act has been due to the conciliatory efforts of the department of labor through its fair-wage officers and its boards of conciliation and investigation; to the dislike for publicity rather than to the fear of fine; to the existence of a means of negotiation rather than a means of restriction."

NO SCAB SHORTAGE.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Oct. 6.—Under the above caption, Editor Buckley of the Wyoming Weekly Labor Journal says:

"We hear a great deal about male labor shortage. Captains of industry who desire to reduce pay roll expense are using this cry to substitute women for men workers at reduced wages.

"As a matter of fact, there is no shortage of male workers. Reports from reliable sources throughout the country show that the supply is ample and in some places in excess of the demand.

"The private armies of strikebreakers and gunmen are as plentiful as ever. Employers who adopt Prussian methods when their employes demand some degree of freedom seem to find little difficulty in herding thousands of thugs to take their places. Tacoma, Seattle and Kansas City are recent instances, and the San Francisco street railway is now furnishing evidence that there is no shortage of labor when the purpose is to prevent employes from forming a union."

HIGHER WAGES NECESSARY.

San Francisco, Oct. 6.—"The workers must have more pay in order to live, and laugh and labor," says Organized Labor, official paper of the California state building trades council.

"Employers and members of the leisure class who complain about 'high wages' either fail or refuse to understand that wages have not been raised, but really reduced within the last five years. If those who control and profit by the prices from the products both of labor and land could or would put all these prices back to where they were in 1906, artisans mechanics and laborers would no doubt be glad to work for the wage scale which prevailed in that good and glorious year—still reckoned to have been the best in San Francisco history. Since then, the cost of living has gone up in a number of essentials several hundred per cent, and the fact is generally recognized that wages have to be raised."

WANTS LABOR PRICE SET.

Philadelphia, Oct. 6.—Business men in this city are urging a "scientific" basis for government price fixing and ask employing interests throughout the country to favor the government controlling wages as well as commodity prices.

This plan was rejected by the recent Atlantic City war conference of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, but Philadelphia business men are so convinced that a scheme that was in vogue in England during the middle ages will now prove successful that they are asking business men elsewhere to support it.

CITY TO BUY CAR LINE

San Francisco, Oct. 6.—Officials of this city and officers of the United Railroads have agreed upon a plan whereby this street car line will be purchased by the city. The property includes 280 miles of single track and 850 electric and cable cars. The company has been fighting its organized motormen and conductors, who insist on higher wages, and the strike has been marked by much bitterness.

SHOP MEN ACCEPT.

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 6.—Federated shop men employed by the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient railroad have cast a favorable ballot on the new wage scale submitted by their committee. All strikers are to be reinstated and wages are increased from 2½ to 6 cents an hour, according to grade of work.

CAR MEN FORCED TO UNITE.

Minneapolis, Oct. 6.—Motormen and conductors employed by the Twin City Rapid Transit company are organizing. Reason: Low wages, poor working conditions and a 16-hour day to secure 10 hours' pay.

BUTCHERS ORGANIZING.

St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 6.—Packing plants in this city are being organized following the successful strikes of butcher workmen in Kansas City and Omaha.

WOMEN ORGANIZING.

New Haven, Conn., Oct. 6.—The Corset Workers' union is conducting a vigorous organizing campaign among women employed in this industry.

FIREMEN ADVANCE.

Covington, Ky., Oct. 6.—City firemen have secured wage increases and one day off every five days. These municipal employes are organized.

UNITING NEGRO BARBERS.

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 6.—The central trades and labor union is conducting an organizing campaign among negro barbers.

OXMAN ACQUITTED; IS AGAIN ARRESTED

San Francisco, Oct. 6.—Frank C. Oxman, principal state witness in the Mooney trial, has been declared not guilty of attempted perjury when he urged F. E. Rigall, of Grayville, Ill., to come to this city and testify as a character witness for him "in an important case."

The jury was out about one hour and when it announced its verdict Oxman was immediately arrested on other charges.

District Attorney Fickert, who prosecuted Mooney, was a leading witness for Oxman, and, of course, entered a general denial of his part in the proceedings. Mrs. Henrietta Rigall, Rigall's mother, testified that Oxman wrote her to come here and testify "in an important case." Oxman promised transportation and told her she would have a chance to see California.

"In reply," she testified, "I asked him why he did not send transportation the same time he sent it to my son Frank, when he desired him to be a witness in the case. He never replied to my letter."

Oxman proved a good witness for himself until he was cross-examined, when he cut a sorry figure under the sharp fire of attorneys. His glib story was of no value then and he was compelled to resort to loud protests of "life-long honesty." Presiding Judge Dunne tried to brace him up by the assurance that he was "under the protection of the court." Judge Dunne also helped Oxman by his ruling that Estelle Smith would not be allowed to testify regarding her affidavit that Oxman attempted to bribe her to commit perjury in the case of Israel Weinberg, one of the defendants in the bomb case. The jury was excused during the argument. But when Oxman's attorneys charged that Rigall had been arrested in Illinois on some petty charge, Judge Dunne permitted the jury to hear arguments as to the admission of this testimony, which was finally excluded, but not before Oxman's attorneys had been given an opportunity to get it before the jury.

It was Oxman's testimony that was the principal factor in convicting Mooney, who was with his wife when the bomb exploded last year. Mrs. Mooney has since been acquitted of the first charge. The prosecution did not put Oxman on the stand in this trial, and the public is asking if the Oregon cattleman's testimony could convict the husband, why not the wife?

CARPENTERS PROSPER.

Indianapolis, Oct. 6.—In his annual report to the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, General Secretary Duffy states that at the end of the last fiscal year, June 30, the brotherhood consisted of 1,976 unions, 138 district councils, 17 city councils, two provincial councils, and 45 ladies' auxiliary unions, with a good-standing membership of 247,240 in the local unions. Members over three months and under six months in arrears and members granted clearance cards, brings the total membership up to 285,675.

Strike and lockout benefits during the year were $66,856.66. In proportion to the number of trade movements this amount is less than in any previous year.

With each succeeding year, says the report, the number of cities in which the eight-hour day prevails is increasing. Instances where the nine-hour day is still in vogue are very rare and the 10-hour day is almost unknown. Wage increases during the past year range from 5 to 15 cents an hour with 10 cents an hour the average increase.

Lawrence, Kan., Oct. 6.—Contractors are accepting the new wage contract of Carpenters' union. Rates are advanced from 37 1-2 to 45 cents an hour.

Fresno, Cal., Oct. 6.—Organized carpenters are having little trouble in enforcing their new wage scale of 70 cents an hour.

PAPER MEN BREAK PLEDGE.

Washington, Oct. 6.—Paper manufacturers are violating an arbitration agreement signed by them when they accepted the federal trade commission's prices for news print paper. These prices are $3.25 per 100 pounds for sheet news in car load lots and $3.50 per 100 pounds for sheet news in lesser amounts.

Newspaper publishers are complaining that the manufacturers are ignoring these prices and the commission replies:

"Under the circumstances this commission desires to inform you that it has decided to permit each and every publisher who filed his consent to the said arbitration agreement, or his representative, to inspect and take copies of the records relating to the said arbitration, including all correspondence on the subject between the signatory manufacturers and itself."

SILENT ABOUT PROFITS.

Hartford, Conn., Oct. 6.—Charles B. Whittlesey, president of the Hartford County Manufacturers' association, is the latest to attack organized labor because it insists on an eight-hour day and a wage that will meet increased living costs.

And in the meantime the government continues its policy of fixing prices to check profiteers, which Whittlesley ignores.

RENTS RAISED 10 PER CENT.

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 6.—Testifying before the street car arbitration board, a local real estate man said that rents have been advanced 10 per cent in Tacoma the past year, and that a similar increase is possible within the next year.

8-HOUR DEMAND GROWS.

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 6.—Employes of the American locomotive works favor the eight-hour day and a 25 per cent wage increase. They realize that only through organization they will be successful, and are acting accordingly.

WIN UNION SHOP.

Duluth, Minn., Oct. 6.—The Farmers Brew. Contracting company has recognized organized labor and signed a union shop agreement with the Carpenters' union.

LAUNDRY WORKERS GAIN.

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 6. — A few hours before the Laundry Workers' union's strike call employers raised wages 10 per cent and signed a one-year agreement.

NEW BLACKSMITHS' UNION.

Wilmington, Del., Oct. 6.—A new local of blacksmiths and helpers has been organized by the international union of this craft.